Chamaecyparis in Edinburgh / Lothians

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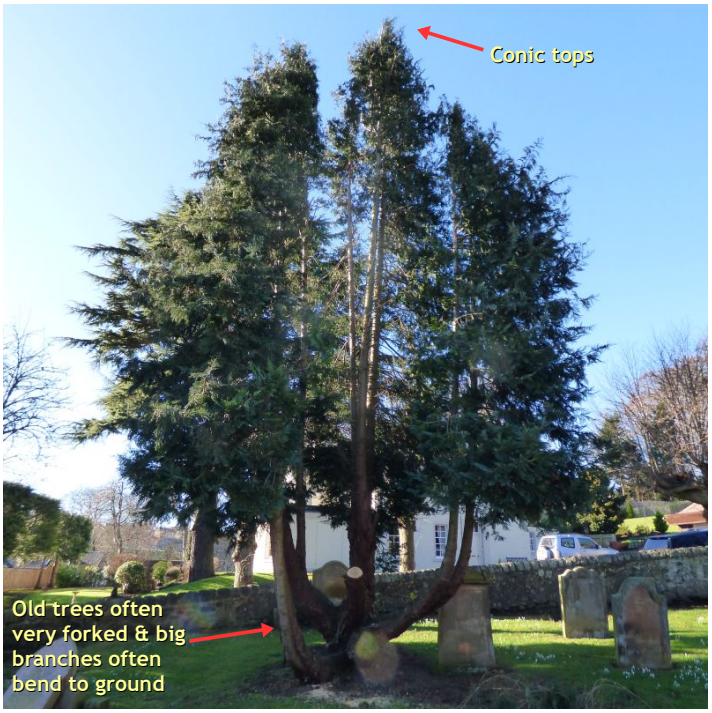
Overview - Lawson and Leyland Cypresses are commonly planted in Edinburgh. This illustrates these species and similar ones you may find about you (having fan-like leaves of the old genus Chamaecyparis, some having moved genus). The two downloadable PDFs "Conifers in the British Isles" by A Mitchell and "Handbook of Coniferae and Ginkogoaceae" by Dallimore and Jackson (ed 1) describe these and other conifers in depth. Pages in those PDFs are given below as CBI & DJ respectively.

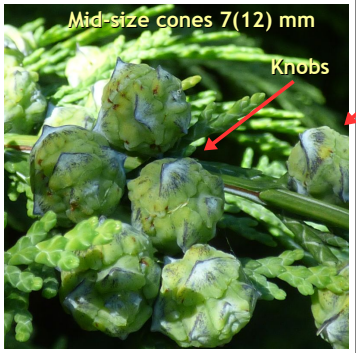
Leaves - Conifers of this kind tend to have two types of leaves: a brief juvenile stage followed by adult leafage. Leafage is either flat like a fan (Chamaecyparis) or a mixture of flat and not flat (hybrid with Cupressus). Do crush and smell the leaves of all conifers.

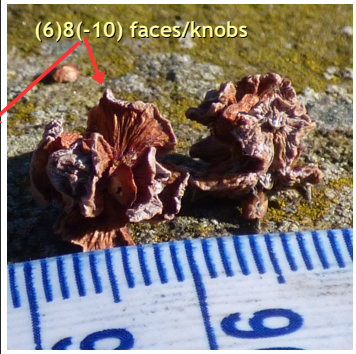
Flowers and Cones - Old cones can stay on for many months and more to examine, and look around April to catch the flowers too since both are extremely helpful, particularly in the face of so many cultivars.

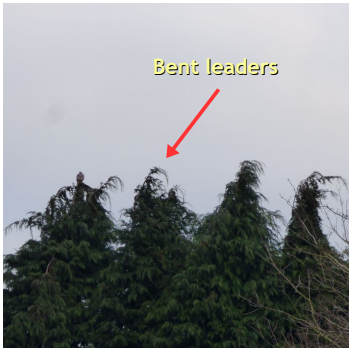
PTO...

Lawson Cypress - The red male flowers in (Mar), Apr will clinch this one. Very Common; web, CBI78, DJ240 - Chamaecyparis lawsoniana





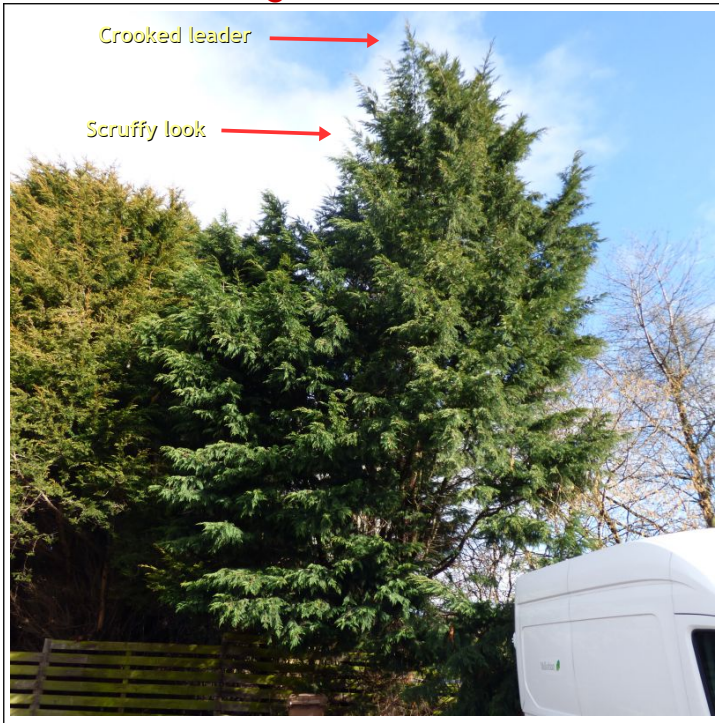




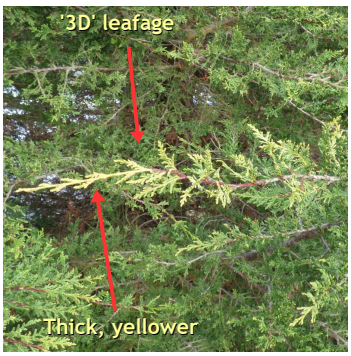
Lawson Cypress cultivar - There are many cultivars of the Lawson, this one has its appearance from the predominance of juvenile leaves, hence the lack of cones - Chamaecyparis lawsoniana

Leyland Cypress - A hybrid of Nootka and Monterey Cypresses (see further down); different hybridisation events have led to more than one cultivar, either with cones (this) or coneless (next), but both inherit a “3D”ness of leaves from the Monterey - Common; CBI98 - Chamaecyparis x leylandii

Coned form / ‘Leighton Green’ - Common

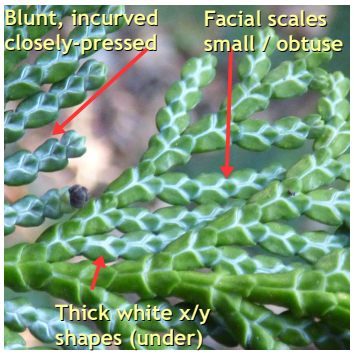


Unconed form / ?‘Castlewellan’ I reckon

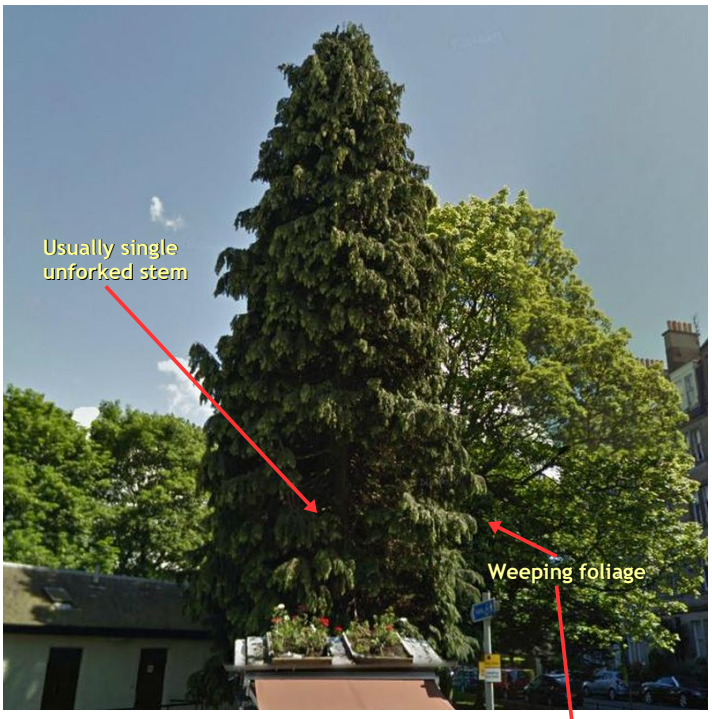


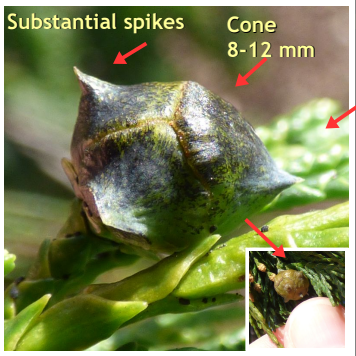
Sawara Cypress - Met reasonably often; web, CBI88, DJ259 - Chamaecyparis pisifera

Hinooki Cypress - Look for the ball-like cones and thick white X/Y shapes under the leaves - Occasional; web, CBI86, DJ256 - Chamaecyparis obtusa

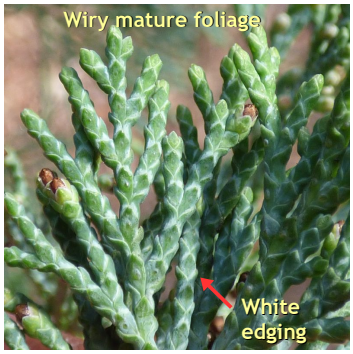


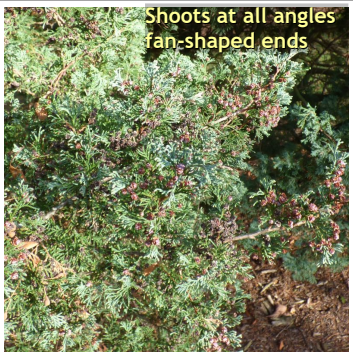
Nootka Cypress - Occasional; web, CBI84, DJ253 - Xanthocyparis nootkatensis

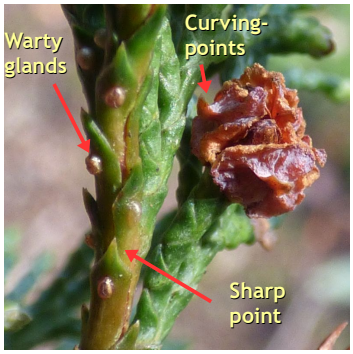




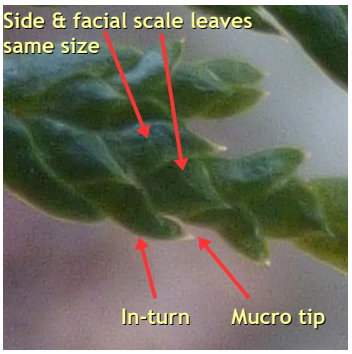
White Cypress - Look for the very small cones and very prominent glands - Very rare, this at the RGBE; web, CBI91, DJ264 - Chamaecyparis thyoides







Formosan Cypress - Cones elongated 7-10(12) x 6-8(-9) mm with 10-14 scales. Very rare, this at the RBGE; web , CBI77, DJ235 - Chamaecyparis formosensis



Info

Updated : 2019-12-18 – please check you have the latest version!

Contact : David Merrick – facebook.com/meteorquake

Facebook Botany Group for Lothians : facebook.com/groups/lothiansbotany

All items in this Series : paintdrawer.co.uk/nature/edinburgh/downloads.htm